# Safety & Health Update

October 2013

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation

This monthly e-newsletter provides updates on the Workplace Safety Programs of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC). Both subscribers and non-subscribers of workers' compensation insurance are eligible for these services.

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# **Transportation Safety Information**

#### **Backing Vehicles**

Backing may be the most difficult aspect of all driving techniques. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, there were 8,458 crashes in Texas in 2012 that involved backing without



safety (when a driver made an unsafe backing movement and the action contributed to a crash). Of these, ten involved fatalities and 286 resulted in serious injuries.

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# **Safety Tips**

## Safe Use of Flammable Liquids

October 6 – 12 is Fire Prevention Week, sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In the workplace and at home, flammable liquids can cause fires if not handled or stored properly. Flammable liquids such as gasoline and



volatile solvents like lacquer thinner and paint stripper have a great potential to ignite because they evaporate rapidly.

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# Transportation Safety Information

### **Backing Vehicles (cont.)**

While the percentage of time a driver spends in a car in reverse may be relatively small, this maneuver can result in a crash involving an obstacle, another vehicle, a pedestrian, or an animal. New drivers need to be taught safe backing maneuvers and veteran drivers should revisit their basic backing training regularly.

There are several basic backing techniques to follow to avoid backing crashes.

- Before backing up, walk around the vehicle, noting obstacles, and ensure safe clearance. Be sure to look underneath and in the blind spot on the right and in front of the vehicle as well.
- After your walk-around, do not delay moving the vehicle, so as not to allow time for another obstacle to approach.
- Eliminate all distractions before you operate a vehicle.
- Avoid blind-side backing whenever possible.
- Start backing up slowly at first to allow other vehicles and pedestrians who may have unexpectedly approached to safely move away.
- Watch your mirrors and constantly check for clearance on all sides.

When backing a vehicle to deliver a load, there are additional safety steps to follow.

- Plan your approach and use a spotter whenever possible.
- Agree on hand signals with the spotter before beginning the maneuver.
- Use safety cones at the rear of the vehicle when parking, to ensure the rear area is clear of obstacles before the vehicle is put in reverse.
- Open and secure cargo doors before backing to a dock or delivery area.
- Turn on four-way flashers and use the backing alarm or horn to indicate the intention to reverse the vehicle.
- Once the backing is completed, chock the vehicle's wheels. ▲



#### **TDI Resources**

The TDI-DWC offers the following free driving safety publications:

- Driving at Work Checklist
- Driving Safety Take 5 for Safety
- Highway Safety Program in the Workplace

These publications, available in both English and Spanish, can be downloaded from the agency website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/targtransrltd.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/targtransrltd.html</a>, along with more than 30 other driving safety publications.

The TDI-DWC features a free occupational safety and health DVD loan library. Call 512-804-4620 for more information or visit the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html</a>. DVDs on many driving dangers can be found under the following headings:

- Driving Safety;
- Road Construction Safety;
- Transportation Safety (includes safe operation of buses and vans); and
- Trucking Safety (covers professional trucking, both straight trucks and tractor trailers).

#### **Other Resources**

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration offers safety resources on its agency website at <a href="http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/">http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/</a>.

The Network of Employers for Traffic Safety offers several resources on road safety, aggressive driving, distracted driving, and statistics on its website at <a href="http://trafficsafety.org">http://trafficsafety.org</a>.

The Governors Highway Safety Association offers news, up-to-date information on state distracted driving laws, planning tools, and other safety resources on its website at <a href="http://www.qhsa.org">http://www.qhsa.org</a>.

# Safety Tips (cont.)

## **Safe Use of Flammable Liquids (cont.)**

The vapor is invisible, but will violently ignite if it is brought into contact with an ignition source. It is important not to use or store flammable liquids near any possible ignition sources, including static



electricity. Always work with flammable liquids in well ventilated areas. Class B fire extinguishers should be kept near work or storage areas that contain flammable liquids, and training should be provided to all persons expected to use a fire extinguisher in the event of a fire.

Flammable liquids may be put into containers of glass or plastic up to a limit of five U.S. gallons (18.9 liters). If filling a container from a gas pump, only use plastic or metal cans. Metal cans or drums are required for quantities over five gallons. Make sure that all metal containers are grounded when transferring flammable liquids between them. In addition, use self-closing flammable storage cabinets when storing flammable liquids in a building.

When filling containers with flammable liquids, do not fill them over 80 percent capacity. This allows for expansion of the liquid under hot conditions. If the container is full, the liquid could leak around the cap under pressure. If transporting flammable liquids in a vehicle, do not place them in the passenger compartment. If possible, place the container in the bed of a pickup truck but not in the trunk of a car.

Post a workplace warning not to smoke within 50 feet of areas where flammable liquids are used or stored. ▲



#### **TDI Resources**

The TDI-DWC offers the following free safety publications related to fire safety:

- Fire Prevention Plan Sample OSHA Written Program;
- Fire Prevention for Small Businesses:
- Fire Safety: Flammable Liquids Take 5 for Safety; and
- Fire Safety Workplace Program.

These publications can be downloaded from the agency website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html</a>, along with many other safety publications.

The TDI-DWC features a free occupational safety and health DVD loan library. For more information, call 512-804-4620 or visit the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html</a>. DVDs on all aspects of fire safety can be found under the *Fire Safety* subject heading and DVDs directly related to flammable liquids can be found under the *Flammable Liquids* subject heading.

#### **Other Resources:**

The NFPA provides Fire Prevention Week campaign materials and information on its website at <a href="http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week">http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week</a>.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers a *Flammable and Combustible Liquids* (29 CFR 1910.106) web page in the Training and Reference Materials Library, available on the agency website at <a href="https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/flammable\_liquids/flammable\_liquids.html">https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/flammable\_liquids.html</a>.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) offers a *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Self-Inspection Checklist* on the agency website at <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-101/chklists/r1n39f">http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-101/chklists/r1n39f</a>~1.htm.



TDI-DWC Hosts Educational Sessions on Changes to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard

Free OSHA 10-Hour Construction Classes

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**Upcoming Safety Observances** 

Safety Violations Hotline Educational Materials Updated

**Effective Return-to-Work Practices for Employers** 

# **Regional Safety Summits**

The TDI-DWC 2013 Regional Safety Summits offer affordable training and instruction on common causes of preventable injuries and fatalities in the workplace, as well as current and upcoming regulations in the occupational safety and health fields.

According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), incidents involving violence and other injuries by persons or animals and contact with objects and equipment ranked as two of the most frequent causes of work-related fatalities in Texas in 2012, accounting for 131 deaths. The TDI-DWC Regional Safety Summits address these and other safety issues commonly encountered in the workplace, including *Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery, Injury Reporting and Recording Compliance, Workplace Violence Prevention* and *Safe Essentials for General Industry*.

Employers and employees attending the Regional Safety Summits will be able to choose one morning session and one afternoon session that are most valuable to their workplace. The cost is \$50 per person and includes course materials, a compact disc with all four presentations, coffee and afternoon snacks. •

# Upcoming Regional Safety Summits Denton — October 16 Holiday Inn and Suites 1434 Centre Place Drive San Angelo — November 13 612 S. Irene Street, San Angelo, TX 76903

# Register!

For seminar session descriptions and to register, visit the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/regional.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/regional.html</a> or call 512-804-4610. Registration fee is \$50 per person (register five people and get registration for a sixth person free).

# Regional Safety Summits Course Descriptions

# **Emergency Preparedness** and Disaster Recovery

Disaster can strike in the workplace at anytime. Proper preparation and planning can help reduce loss of life and property. This session will look at steps to take prior to and following a workplace disaster. Threats from weather, as well as manmade disasters will be addressed. Scenarios will be discussed and assessed for best practices. Additionally, development of a disaster recovery plan will be discussed. (3 hours)

#### Injury Reporting and Recording Compliance

OSHA and the TDI-DWC require most employers to maintain records of and report workplace injuries and illnesses. This session will present information on the requirements and criteria to determine if an injury or illness must be recorded. This session will also provide information on the forms used to report injuries and illnesses and how to complete them under various scenarios.

(3 hours)

## **Workplace Violence Prevention**

This session will address how to identify causes of workplace violence; practical methods of dealing with people under emotional distress; early warning signs and responses to aggressive behavior; steps for performing a security analysis; methods for stress reduction and practical communication skills; and best practices to improve safety at schools. (3 hours)

## Safety Essentials for General Industry

General industry workplaces can be busy and dangerous environments for employees. This session will address some of the major issues faced by employers in warehouse, office and manufacturing environments and provide guidelines on how to address those issues.

#### Avoiding Falls and Falling Object Hazards

Many types of businesses require employees to work at multiple heights with objects of different sizes and weights. Today, some of the most commonly reported injuries involve falls onto walking surfaces and from heights to lower levels. Additionally, employees at lower levels must be protected from being struck by objects falling from above. This session will cover various types of fall hazards, how to protect employees from them, and methods for protecting employees working at lower levels. (1 hour)

#### Industrial Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety

In warehouses and other workplaces that require the use of powered industrial vehicles (forklifts, powered pallet jacks, etc.), operators are required to pay attention and yield to pedestrians in their operating areas. This session will address training to make pedestrians in the workplace aware of the hazards associated with industrial vehicles and how to avoid harmful contact with them. Industrial vehicle operator responsibilities will also be discussed. (1 hour)

#### GHS:

#### The New Hazard Communication Standard

Recently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) adopted the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The GHS means big changes for makers, transporters, and users of hazardous chemicals in the United States. By December 1, 2013, OSHA is requiring that all employees be trained on this update to the Hazard Communication Standard. This session will help attendees to understand these changes. Additionally, attendees will receive all the information and materials necessary to comply with OSHA's December training deadline, for both themselves and distribution to employees at their workplace. (1 hour)

# TDI-DWC Hosts Educational Sessions on Changes to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard

he TDI-DWC is hosting educational sessions ■ entitled *Changes to Hazard Communication* Labeling and Safety Data Sheet Format at its field offices around the state in October and November. This training will assist employers in complying with training requirements associated with recent changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard, which now aligns with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). Employers subject to the federal Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act must provide training to employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet format by December 1, 2013. OSHA estimates over five million workplaces and 43 million employees are going to be affected by the revised Hazard Communication Standard.

The educational sessions are for all employers, employees, employee organizations, risk managers, safety professionals, insurance carriers, health care providers and attorneys. The free sessions will provide information on the labeling and safety data sheet format changes to the Hazard Communication Standard, 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.1200 (also known as the "Right to Know" law), which requires manufacturers of chemicals, employers and employees to take measures to prevent illness or injury that could occur when working with hazardous materials. Employers not subject to the OSH Act must comply with the Texas Hazard Communication Act, Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 502, which references the most current requirements of the OSHA standard.

Abilene	November 12, 2013
Austin	October 17, 2013
Beaumont	November 15, 2013
Corpus Christi	October 17, 2013
Denton	October 17, 2013
Fort Worth	November 15, 2013
Houston*	November 7, 2013
Laredo	November 1, 2013
Lubbock	November 15, 2013
Lufkin	November 12, 2013
San Angelo	November 14, 2013
San Antonio	October 24, 2013
Waco	November 21, 2013
Weslaco	October 31, 2013
Wichita Falls	November 12, 2013

\*The Houston Educational Session on November 7, 2013, is hosted jointly by the TDI-DWC Houston East and Houston West Offices.

# Register!

To register online and for more details on the following educational sessions, visit the TDI-DWC Events and Training Calendar on the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/alert/event/dwceducational.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/alert/event/dwceducational.html</a>.

# Free OSHA 10-Hour Construction Classes

The TDI-DWC offers free OSHA 10-Hour Construction classes in both English and Spanish in Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, and Houston. Each two-day course is presented by authorized instructors and is designed to train employers and their employees in the essentials of occupational health and safety in construction. Classes cover specific OSHA standards and requirements as they apply to the construction industry and teach safety awareness, which helps in recognizing and reducing the risks of job site hazards. Participants who successfully complete the two-day course will receive an OSHA 10-Hour Construction class completion card within four to six weeks.

## Register!

For additional information on these classes, visit the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/events/index.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/events/index.html</a>.

Due to limited space, registration is required. To register or for more information on class availability, call 512-804-4610.

## **Custom Onsite Training**

The TDI-DWC offers affordable safety training courses that can be delivered onsite to businesses, groups, and trade associations, with priority given to those industries or occupations in Texas that experience high incidences of injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

The TDI-DWC offers more than 30 onsite courses, including:

#### **Hazard Recognition and Elimination**

Hazard recognition and elimination is a cornerstone of any effective safety program. Specific mandatory written safety (and environmental) programs are driven by site-specific unsafe conditions and hazardous materials. Often safety committees are enlisted by their employers to complete this task. When it comes to performing the site hazard analysis, employees and employers often have not been trained to successfully execute this ongoing mission.

This course is designed to familiarize employers and employees with the logistics and process of implementing a successful hazard recognition and elimination program. (Length: 4 hours)

The TDI-DWC Training Program Descriptions guide, located on the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/ghsphstrainingp.pdf">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/ghsphstrainingp.pdf</a>, provides information on course content and length. The cost for onsite training varies according to the travel costs to the training location. Many courses can also be presented at no cost via teleconference or webinar. \( \blacktriangle \)



To request training, or for more information, call 512-804-4610 or e-mail <u>safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov</u>.

## Nominations Being Accepted for the TDI-DWC Peer Review Safety Program

The TDI-DWC Peer Review Safety Program recognizes Texas employers with exemplary safety programs, which can serve as models for other employers. The TDI-DWC is accepting nominations for this award, to be presented at its annual safety conference, the Texas Safety Summit, in May 2014.

Employers who are members of the Peer Review Safety Program may be asked to provide help with safety programs and issues to peer organizations in the same North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code. Such assistance may include giving presentations to appropriate industry associations, mentoring other organizations, serving as a panel member for safety and health issues, or participating in the Texas Safety Summit.

Who is eligible to apply for Peer Review Safety Program recognition?

- Any Texas employer with workers' compensation coverage; or
- Employers without workers' compensation coverage that have five or more employees.

# Who can nominate an employer for Peer Review Safety Program recognition?

- · An eligible organization for itself;
- A workers' compensation insurance carrier;
- Industrial trade organizations, labor organizations or similar entities; or
- Staff members of the TDI-DWC.

Apply for the Peer Review Safety Program Award

For additional information and to download the Peer Review Safety Program application, visit the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/peereviewsfty.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/peereviewsfty.html</a> or call 512-804-4610.

There is no charge for review of the application or for acceptance into the Peer Review Safety Program. After review of the application, a representative of the TDI-DWC will visit the company to validate the information contained in the application. If accepted, the recognition will be valid for two (2) years from the date of acceptance and may be renewed by the submission of updated injury data and safety program information.

# **Upcoming Safety Observances**

October 1-31

Eye Injury Prevention Month

October 1-31
National Crime Prevention Month

October 2-6
Drive Safely to Work Week

October 6-12
Fire Prevention Week

October 20-26 National Teen Driver Safety Week

October 21-25
National School Bus Safety Week

November 21-January 1 *Tie One On for Safety* 

# Safety Violations Hotline Educational Materials Updated

The TDI-DWC has updated its Safety Violations Hotline educational materials, entitled, Information for Texas Employers and Information for Texas Employees. These materials include information on an employee's right to report an unsafe working environment; instructions on how to report unsafe working conditions and safety violations; and information on state laws regarding retaliation by employers. To obtain the educational materials, visit the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html</a> or call 512-804-4610. ▲

# **Report a Safety Violation**

Report workplace hazards to the Safety Violations Hotline by calling 1-800-452-9595 or use the online form at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html</a>.

# Effective Return-to-Work Practices for Employers

Employers experience lower costs, reduced lost time and eliminate possibilities for fraud and malingering by providing opportunities for their injured employees to continue to do productive work while they are recovering from a work-related injury.

Because injured employees who stay at work or who are returned to productive work, as soon as possible following an injury, require less medical care and experience less disability, workers' compensation medical costs are significantly reduced. Employees are earning wages so there are no weekly benefits being paid. In addition to reducing employer workers' compensation costs, employees do not suffer the sometimes dire financial and family consequences of unnecessary lost time and are more able to maintain their normal life style.

To help employers develop their own return-to-work procedures, the TDI-DWC offers individual consultations, workshops, seminars, training, and an employer resource guide, *Making Return to Work* — *Work* — *for Your Business and Your Employees*. Learn about the benefits and purpose of early return to work and how to implement a successful process by arranging for any of these services or requesting the guide. There is no cost for these services or assistance. The guide includes a procedural outline, sample forms and provides useful suggestions. It can be copied or edited, if desired.

Material presented during the seminar, consultations, or training covers the development and implementation of effective return-to-work practices and includes discussions of difficult issues typically faced by employers. There is ample opportunity for questions and for sharing information among those attending. All participants will receive a copy of the *Making Return to Work* — *Work* — *for Your Business and Your Employees* guide. There is no charge for the seminar. However sponsors are requested to help with travel costs when possible. For insurance adjusters, the TDI has approved this seminar for continuing education credits. •

## **Download!**

The Making Return to Work — Work — for Your Business and Your Employees guide can be downloaded from the agency website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rtw/documents/rtwguide.pdf">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rtw/documents/rtwguide.pdf</a>.

# Book your Seminar or Consultation!

To arrange for a seminar or consultation, to request printed copies of the employers guide, or for additional information, call (512) 804-4804 or e-mail <a href="mailto:pat.crawford@tdi.texas.gov">pat.crawford@tdi.texas.gov</a>.



# TDI, OSHCON, and OSHA Recognize Levelland Employer with Exemplary Safety Program

The TDI-DWC's OSHCON Program and OSHA recently recognized Worley Welding Works of Levelland for its outstanding safety program with the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) award.



Worley Welding Works, which employs 120 people, provides custom manufacturing for oilfield equipment. This company has been granted a two-year exemption from OSHA for planned inspections.

The SHARP award recognizes small, private sector Texas employers for exemplary safety management programs and low incidence rates of work-related injuries and illnesses after participation in the TDI-DWC OSHCON program.

OSHCON is a free service designed to help employers understand and comply with OSHA standards through safety consultations conducted by TDI-DWC's professional consultants. Benefits for employers participating in the OSHCON program include prevention of work-related injuries and illnesses; confirmation to their employees and customers of their commitment to safety; public

acknowledgement of their safety efforts; monetary savings to the company by reducing workers' compensation costs and other costs associated with work-related injuries and illnesses; and protection of company assets such as employees, equipment, supplies, products and facilities.

Employers receiving consultation services from the OSHCON program may be eligible for SHARP status if they have fewer than 250 employees at a worksite and fewer than 500 employees corporatewide; have operations limited to a fixed worksite; undergo a full-service OSHCON consultation; involve employees in the consultation process; correct all hazards identified by the consultation; and have days away, restricted or transfer (DART) and total case rate (TCR) injury and illness incidence rates below the national average for their industries.

# Find Out More About SHARP and OSHCON!

For further information about the OSHCON program and SHARP, call 1-800-687-7080, visit the OSHCON website at <a href="http://www.txoshcon.com">http://www.txoshcon.com</a>, or e-mail <a href="http://www.txoshcon.com">OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov</a>.

For information about the OSHCON program and assistance with OSHA standards, contact the TDI-DWC at 1-800-687-7080 or OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov, or visit the OSHCON website at http://www.txoshcon.com.

# Safety DVDs featuring Home Health Care Safety

The TDI-DWC Resource Center has over 4,000 DVDs in its library. Most titles are available in both English and Spanish.

According to the Texas Workforce Commission Labor Market and Career Information *Fastest Growing Occupations 2010 - 2020* two of the fastest growing occupations in Texas are personal care aides and home health aides. The TDI Resource Center collection includes over 200 health care safety DVDs, including the following home health carerelated titles.

#### **DVDs for Home Health Care Safety:**

#### Bloodborne Pathogens: Protection in the Home Care Setting

#### **DVD1925ES**

"Outlines the proper precautions that home health care employees should follow to ensure safety on the job. Covers OSHA 1910.1030. Covers workplace transmission, standard precautions, HBV vaccinations, workplace controls, housekeeping and laundry." 17 min.

#### Fire Safety in Home Health: Ten Burning Questions **DVD1961ES**

"Emphasizes the basic facts about fire, covers steps to take to assess fire hazards in patients' homes, and how to escape home fires. Also reviews how to teach families about fire dangers. Also discusses home fire statistics, PASS, and RACE for safety." 16 min.

# Home Healthcare Safety Orientation **DVD1986ES**

"Helps employees recognize the potential dangers of working in a home care setting. Covers what to look for in the home, handwashing, safe work practices, and handling medical waste and equipment." 20 min.

## **Book Your DVDs!**

Information on how any Texas employer or employee can check out safety DVDs for free and the TDI-DWC Resource Center catalog are available on the TDI website at <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html</a>.

# **OSHA Update**

### New and Updated Safety Resources from OSHA

SHA recently released several new and updated safety publications which are available on the OSHA website at <a href="https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html">https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html</a>, including a new:

- 1-Bromopropane: OSHA/NIOSH Hazard Alert outlining the health effects and exposure dangers of working around this solvent, which is used in degreasing, dry cleaning, spray adhesives and aerosol solvents;
- Cadmium: Medical Evaluation of Renal Effects of Cadmium Exposures brief for physicians describing the renal effects of cadmium exposures in employees in general industry, construction, shipbuilding, and agriculture;
- publication on combustible dust: Firefighting Precautions at Facilities with Combustible Dust and an accompanying QuickCard listing precautions for firefighters to prevent dust explosions; and
- Fall Prevention Training Guide, a lesson plan for employers to give fall prevention training to employees.

#### **Free OSHA Compliance Assistance**

The TDI-DWC provides a free compliance assistance service for small businesses with fewer than 250 employees at any one facility, and no more than 500 employees nationwide through its Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON)

Program. OSHCON is a non-regulatory program, and its professional safety and health consultants are available to help you identify and eliminate occupational hazards in your workplace, whether or not your company carries workers' compensation insurance.

# **NIOSH Update**

# Free Online Violence Prevention Training for Nurses

NIOSH reports that in 2012, the Health Care and Social Assistance (HCCA) Social Assistance (HCSA) sector was amongst the largest industry sectors in the U.S., employing an estimated 19.4 million employees (13.5 percent of the total workforce). On average, over the last decade, U.S. health care employees have accounted for two-thirds of the nonfatal workplace violence injuries in all industries involving days away from work. Health care employees face the risk of both physical violence and non-physical violence, such as verbal abuse, on the job. These numbers represent only the assaults that resulted in time away from work and not the less severe physical injuries or the psychological trauma that HCSA employees experience from workplace violence. Additionally, these data only capture the reported incidents. The literature suggests that the number of assaults reported by health care employees is greatly underreported.

Employers seeking to establish an effective workplace violence prevention program in the health care industry should incorporate prevention strategies that focus on risk factors from several perspectives, including: clinical (patients under the influence of drugs or alcohol); environmental (physical layout, design, and contents of the workplace); organizational (policies, procedures, and culture); and social and economic (distraught family members and challenging economic circumstances). The 2002 NIOSH publication Violence: Occupational Hazards in Hospitals, available on the agency website at <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/">http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/</a> docs/2002-101/, discusses prevention strategies in terms of environmental (installing security devices), administrative (staffing patterns), and behavioral (training).

To address this need, NIOSH and health care stakeholders, developed a new free online course aimed at training nurses in recognizing and preventing workplace violence. The course also encourages nurses to become proactive in working with their employers to prevent violence in health care settings. The multi-media training incorporates text, videos depicting workplace violence incidents, testimonials from real nurses, and module quizzes. Nurses can also receive free continuing education credits for completing the online course.

The course has 13 units that take approximately 15 minutes each to complete, includes "resumewhere-you-left-off" technology, is available on the NIOSH website at <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/violence/training\_nurses.html">http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/violence/training\_nurses.html</a>. ▲



#### FREE OSHA COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

 Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) Program

http://www.txoshcon.com

1-800-687-7080

OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov

#### **SAFETY & HEALTH RESOURCES**

- Free Safety and Health Publications http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/ videoresources/index.html
- Free Audiovisual Loans
   <a href="http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html">http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html</a>
   512-804-4620
- Safety Training Courses and Seminars
   512-804-4610
   safetytraining@tdi.texas.gov
- Helpful Safety and Health Resource Links <u>http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/govunivlinks.html</u>

# TDI-DWC RESOURCE CENTER 512-804-4620

ResourceCenter@tdi.texas.gov

#### OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESS DATA

 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)

http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/nonfatalhomepag.html

512-804-5020

InjuryAnalysis@tdi.texas.gov

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)
 http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/fathomepage.html
 512-804-5020
 CFOI@tdi.texas.gov

#### REPORT A SAFETY VIOLATION OR HAZARD

Safety Violations Hotline

Reports are taken in both English and Spanish and may be made anonymously.

1-800-452-9595

http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/hotline.html

# RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM ASSISTANCE 512-804-5000

http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rtw/index.html

Please forward this newsletter to friends and colleagues interested in preventing workplace injuries and illnesses.

Have a safe day!